

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A packaging device for dental implants, comprising:
an outer package having top portion and a base portion that are detachably coupled to each other to define a cavity;
a sleeve positioned in the cavity, the sleeve having a side wall extending from a first end and a second end, the first end having a top surface that defines a first opening for receiving a dental implant and the second end defining a second opening,
a stop comprising a support surface for supporting the dental implant in the sleeve and at least one lever arm, the at least one lever arm being configured to exert a force against an inner surface of the sleeve so as to support the stop at a fixed vertical location within the sleeve.
2. The packaging device as in Claim 1, wherein the at least one lever arm is configured such that an insertion force required to insert the stop into the sleeve and position the stop at the fixed vertical location is less than a removal force required to remove the stop from the fixed vertical location.
3. The packaging device as in Claim 2, wherein the insertion force is less than 15% of the removal force.
4. The packaging device as in Claim 2, wherein the insertion force is less than 10% of the removal force.
5. The packaging device as in Claim 2, wherein the removal force is greater than about 10 lbs.
6. The packaging device as in Claim 1, wherein the at least one lever arm is formed at least in part from a portion of the support surface and a downwardly extending flange that extends from the support surface, the lever arm being defined between a pair of slots that extend through the downwardly extending flange and into the support surface.
7. The packaging device as in Claim 6, wherein the downwardly extending flange forms an angle of approximately 30 degrees with respect a longitudinal axis of the sleeve.
8. The packaging device as in Claim 1, wherein the support surface is conical.

9. The packaging device as in Claim 8, wherein the support surface forms an angle of approximately 120 degrees with respect to a longitudinal axis of the sleeve.

10. The packaging device as in Claim 1, wherein the opening is formed from an annular flanges that extends downwardly from the top surface of the sleeve.

11. The packaging device as in Claim 1, wherein the stop includes at least one centering flange which extends from the support surface and is approximately parallel to a longitudinal axis of the sleeve.

12. The packaging device as in Claim 11, wherein the stop includes three centering flanges and three lever arms.

13. The packaging device as in Claim 1, further comprising a cushion that is positioned in the cavity between the second end of the sleeve and a bottom surface of the base portion.

14. The packaging device as in Claim 1, further comprising a cap that includes an annular flange configured to fit around and over the second end of the sleeve, the cap including a centering portion within the annular flange that is configured such that when the cap is coupled to the sleeve the implant is secured in a vertical direction between the centering portion and the stop.

15. The packaging system as in Claim 14, wherein the cap includes a cavity for receiving a healing cap and a lid for enclosing the healing cap within the cavity.

16. A packaging system, comprising:

a dental implant having a collar with a first diameter

an outer package having top portion and a base portion that are detachably coupled to each other to define a cavity;

a sleeve positioned in the cavity, the sleeve having a side wall extending from a first end and a second end, the first end defining a first opening having a diameter that is larger than the first diameter and the second end defining a second opening,

a stop that is insertable through the second opening, the stop comprising a first surface for supporting the dental implant in the sleeve, and

means for securing the stop at a fixed vertical position within the sleeve such that the force required to position the stop at the fixed vertical location is less than the force required to remove the stop from the fixed vertical position.

17. The packaging system as in Claim 16, further comprising a cushion that is positioned in the cavity between the second end of the sleeve and a bottom surface of the base portion.

18. The packaging device as in Claim 16, further comprising a cap that includes an annular flange configured to fit around and over the second end of the sleeve, the cap including a centering portion within the annular flange that is configured such that when the cap is coupled the sleeve the implant is secured in a vertical direction between the centering portion and the stop.

19. The packaging system as in Claim 18, wherein the cap includes a cavity for receiving a healing cap and a lid for enclosing the healing cap within the cavity.

20. A method for packaging a dental implant comprising:

providing a sleeve having a side wall, a top surface with a first opening and a second open end, and

press-fitting a stop into the sleeve until the stop reaches a fixed vertical position that configured such that a top surface of the dental implant supported by the stop is positioned approximately flush with the top surface of the sleeve.